

Publicity in the country, including the State of Kerala, would depend upon availability of resources.

Statement

Location-wise list of Field Publicity Units in the State of Kerala

S.No.	Location
1.	Alleppey
2.	Cannanore
3.	Ernakulam
4.	Malappuram
5.	Kottayam
6.	Kozhikode
7.	Palghat
8.	Trichur
9.	Thiruvananthapuram
10.	Quilon
11.	Wynad

Newspapers Published from Gujarat

758. SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received applications for publishing and starting daily newspapers, weeklies, monthlies etc. from the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such newspapers given permission and registered during the last two years; and

(d) the criteria, rules and regulations for the grant of permission and registration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) : Titles are verified by the Registrar of Newspapers for India for publication and starting of daily newspapers, periodicals etc. 691 and 720 applications for title verification were received from Gujarat during the calendar year 1996 and 1997 respectively.

(c) The details of titles cleared and registration of newspapers/periodicals done during the years is as under :

Year	Titles cleared	Newspapers/periodicals registered
1996	407	78
1997	490	171

(d) Registration of newspapers/periodicals and title clearance are done in accordance with the provisions contained in Section 5 and Section 6 of Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867.

Private Sector participation in Power Generation

759. SHRI DOWARKA PARSHAD BAIRWA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified the State for allowing Private Sector participation in power generation;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted for identifying these States;

(c) the number of proposals received in this regard and number of pending proposals; and

(d) the names of the States given priority and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a), (b) and (d) : The policy of Government of India for private participation in the power sector applies equally to all the States. The criteria adopted for deciding on the location of a power project in a State is determined keeping in view certain essential techno-economic details such as distance from source of fuel, transportation of fuel, water availability, feasibility of establishing the project from environmental and forest aspects, feasibility of power evacuation to the Load centres, etc.

(c) Government of India is monitoring 126 proposals that were received by State Governments for setting up of power projects in the private sector. These include 95 proposals on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/ Letter of Intent (LoI), etc. route costing above Rs. 100 crores and 31 proposals on the competitive bidding route costing more than 1000 crores. As on April 30, 1998, Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has accorded techno-economic clearance to 41 projects for which complete Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) had been received. The DPRs in respect of 10 more projects received in CEA will be taken up for techno-economic appraisal after the requisite clarifications are received from the project promoters.

Demand and Supply of Power

760. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any detailed study has been undertaken regarding the increasing demand of power in the States during the forthcoming plan;

(b) if so, the action plan contemplated to fulfil the demand of power supply;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the agricultural, industrial and domestic consumption of power in the States separately;

(d) whether the Ministry has requested to the Planning Commission to make additional allocation of funds in the field of power production; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the commission thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. The 15th Power Survey Committee was constituted in March, 1994 to review the electricity demand projections in details upto 2001-2002 and to project the perspective demand upto 2011-12.

(b) As per the draft Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), following action plan has been contemplated to fulfil the demand for power supply.

- (i) Early completion of the on-going projects.
- (ii) Maximisation of benefits from the existing plants by improving the Plant Load Factor (PLF).
- (iii) Reducing the Transmission & Distribution losses.
- (iv) Rationalisation of electricity tariff.
- (v) Establishment of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) at Centre and State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) at States level.
- (vi) Demand management and energy conservation measures by different end-users.

(c) The 15th Electricity Power Survey Committee has assessed the agricultural, industrial and domestic consumption of power in the States separately upto 2001-02.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Ninth Plan programme and outlay therefor for the power sector is yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission.

[English]

LPT at Nanpara, Bagraich (U.P.)

761. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about the LPT at Nanpara District, Bagraich U.P. not functioning for the required hours; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the functioning of Nanpara LPT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) This has been brought to the notice of Prasar Bharati Board which has to take necessary steps to improve the functioning of Nanpara LPT.

[Translation]

Clearance to Renkota Reservoir

762. DR. MAHANT CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal relating to clearance of the Renkota reservoir located at Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh has been pending with the Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which the clearance would be accorded to this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) A proposal for diversion of 51.015 ha. of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for construction of Renkota Tank Project in district Bilaspur has been received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. The proposal is under active consideration for final decision, which will be taken shortly.

[English]

Cooperation with Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan

763. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to establish cooperation with Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan in the field of power;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States likely to be benefited as a results thereof of the cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) The status of exchange of power with Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan is as follows :

1. **Bangladesh.** Consequent to the discussion regarding exchange of power between India and Bangladesh at various levels, the two Governments have agreed to prepare a joint feasibility report for interconnection of power systems between Bangladesh and India with Power-Grid Corporation of India Ltd. being authorised to prepare the feasibility report from the Indian side. The Asian Development Bank has agreed to finance a feasibility study for exchange of power between India and Bangladesh under its Regional Technical Assistance Programme. A Tripartite Meeting had been held at ADB, Manila on 29th and 30th May, 1997 regarding the Project. The project envisages export of surplus power from Eastern Region of India to Western